Flashback

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FLASHBACK

Journal of the Washington County Historical Society

Preserving Our Past for Future Generations

Volume 68 Summer 2018 Number 2

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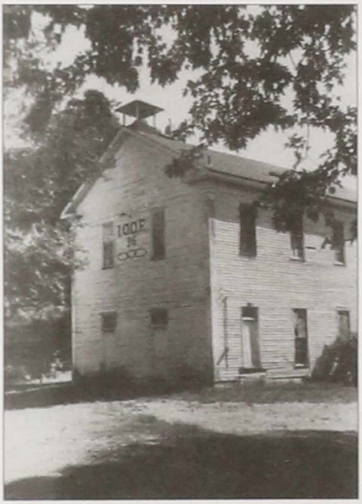


Courtesy Shiloh Museum of Ozark History (S-78-103-79)

On the Cover: The Independent Order of the Odd Fellows Hall in Springdale, Arkansas, as it looked circa 1938. The hall, built in 1871, was restored by the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History and reopened to the public in June. Read more about the history of the building and the reopening on Page 43.

Early Historians of Fayetteville and Washington County

By J.B. Hogan and Susan Parks-Spencer

Over our nearly 200-year existence, Fayetteville and Washington County have had a number of historians record the events, places, and people who came before and have made us who we are today. Names like W. S. Campbell, Kent Brown, and Walter J. Lemke immediately come to mind. Their contributions, as well as that of so many others, have helped preserve much of our past. Lesser known, though, are the first historians, the ones who recorded our early years – they deserve to be remembered as well.

Alfred W. Arrington

One of the first local historians, and certainly one of the most entertaining if not always the most reliable, was A.W. Arrington. Arrington came to Fayetteville around 1832 from Missouri where he had recently been expelled from the Methodist ministry. Born on September 17, 1810, in North Carolina,[1] Arrington's story is remarkable in and of itself, independent of his legacy as a local historian.

A youthful prodigy of sorts, Arrington took to the pulpit early and was a highly regarded and charismatic evangelist in the American heartland, being ordained a Methodist minister in 1831 at Indianapolis, Indiana. But his passion for the Word shortly shifted towards women and strong drink and by the following year he had done a spiritual flip-flop, renouncing his faith and "becoming a militant infidel."[2] Arrington's lust for alcohol and ladies would color most perceptions of the man throughout the rest of his life.

In 1832, the year he denounced his faith, he temporarily relocated to Little Rock then moved north to Fayetteville. The following year he requested and was allowed back into the ministry but

by 1834 had once again been expelled by the Methodist leadership. Also that year, Arrington married Sarah Connor, daughter of a respectable Fayetteville family.[3]

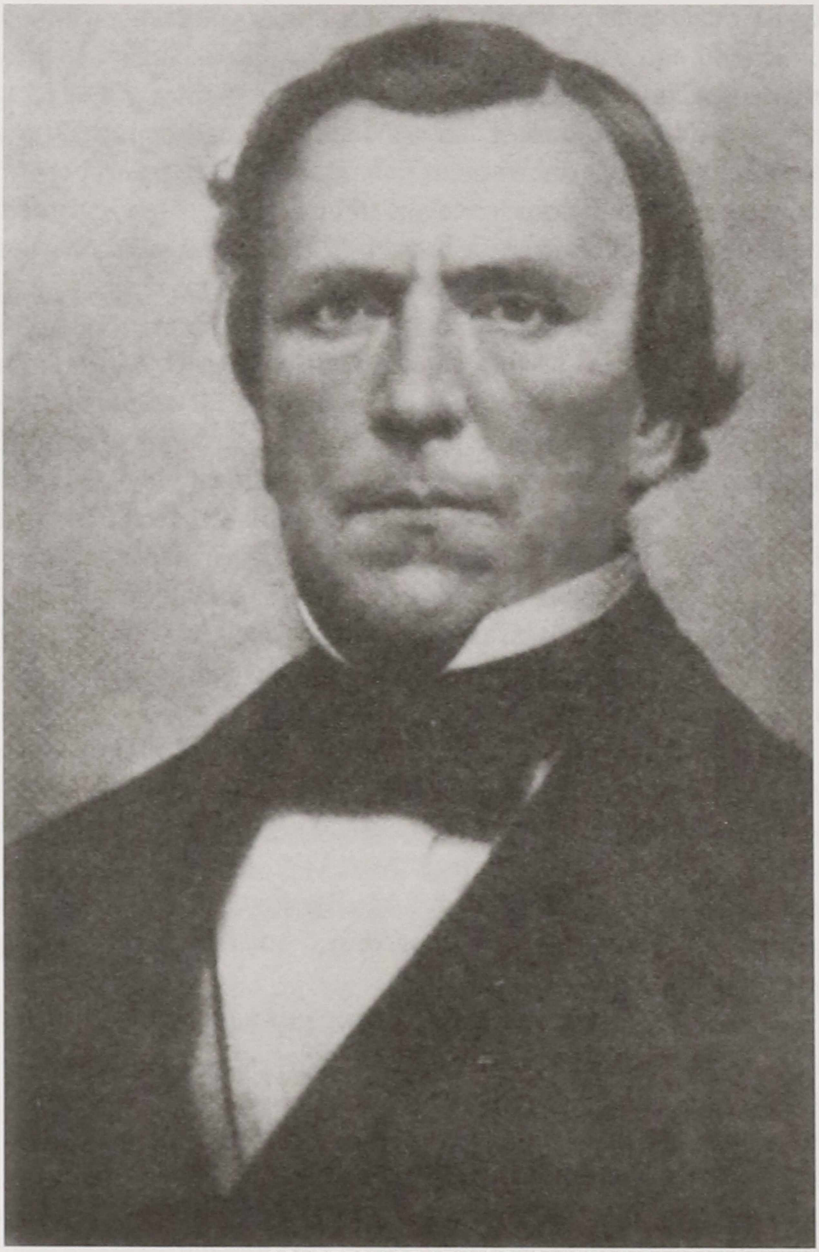
With his preaching days behind him, the "erratic genius" read law and "was admitted to the bar in Fayetteville."[4] He quickly rose to prominence as a lawyer and was "noted for the brilliancy of his imagination and the success which attended his practice in the courts."[5] Despite his success, his reputation suffered because he was said to be "erratic in his manner of living" and "frequently indulged in fits of dissipation"[6] – elsewhere described as "he liked his corn whiskey."[7]

The year 1839 was a momentous one for Fayetteville and Washington County and Arrington was an active participant and observer of the events in that dramatic time. Three acts of violence that year had a great impact on the area. First was the Trail of Tears detachment of John Benge passing through Fayetteville in January which resulted in the killing of Cherokee Nelson Orr. Then on June 15 members of the Wright family near Cane Hill were murdered, putting the young county into a state of fear and paranoia. One week later to the day, June 22, members of the Cherokee Treaty Party, Major Ridge, John Ridge and Elias Boudinot, were killed in retaliation for their role in the relocation of the tribe from its ancestral homes in the east.

When the man who stabbed Nelson Orr to death, Willis Wallace, was acquitted of the killing in May of 1839, Arrington was incensed at what he perceived to be an injustice – so much so that the conflict between the two men, although no shots were fired, became known as the Arrington-Wallace War.

Arrington also felt that the men accused and then hung for the Wright family murders in Cane Hill were innocent. He railed against the legitimacy of the thirty-six men known as the Cane Hill Regulators who conducted the investigation and interrogation of the purported murderers, and he was appalled by the actual hangings.[8]

Despite his controversial stand on these cases, Arrington continued to have a successful law practice. By 1842, he was popular enough to campaign for and win a seat in the Arkansas Legislature, running on the Whig Party ticket.



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Alfred W. Arrington

In May 1843, he led the defense team that helped Cherokee Stand Watie, brother of the late Elias Boudinot and later a Confederate General and war hero, get acquitted for the killing of James C. Foreman, who was allegedly involved in the death of Major Ridge. Arrington's defense summation was so strong that the jury returned a Not Guilty verdict for Watie in five minutes."[9]

In the 1844 election, however, things began to go bad for the eloquent, dynamic Arrington. Although he campaigned as a Whig candidate for a presidential elector position, he ended up voting almost a straight Democratic ticket. His shifting political allegiance and wild behavior – he had challenged two men to duels, including Alfred M. Wilson who had prosecuted Stand Watie (both men refused) – made Arrington a pariah in Arkansas politics and in the pages of its leading newspapers.[10]

That same year, he chose to leave Arkansas, forever abandoning his wife Sarah and family and heading south to Texas with a mistress in tow. From 1844 until the mid-1850s, Arrington spent most of his time in Texas, but he also lived briefly in New York, then went back to Texas for several years, where he first became a judge, and finally in 1855 moved to Madison, Wisconsin.

As far back as 1832, Arrington had stated that his goal was to earn "his living writing poetry and novels"[11] and while in Texas he ended up writing several books under the pseudonym Charles Summerfield. In 1847, while he was in New York, he married once again and found a publisher for his books. His first book was *The Desperadoes of the South-West*, followed in short order by *Duelists and Duelling in the South-West*."[12]

These two books were combined and reissued as one in 1849 by publishers in both New York and Philadelphia. The New York version was titled *The Lives and Adventures of the Desperadoes of the South-West* while the Philadelphia book was called *Illustrated Lives and Adventures of the Desperadoes of the New World.*

Even though both of these books at times may be seen as "highly imaginative"[13] accounts of the Wright Family murders and Willis Wallace affair, Arrington's stories are based on actual Arkansas history. If we can get past the fact that he often wrote "with more than

poetic license,"[14] there is a foundation of historical accuracy in his works that is and has been invaluable to subsequent historians for nearly 170 years.

Arrington's writings as Charles Summerfield brought him some level of "national fame"[15] and after his brief sojourn in Madison, in 1857 he moved to Chicago, Illinois. His writing from this point on was mostly limited to poetry but as a lawyer and judge his success was described as being "without parallel in the history of the profession."[16] Once again, he married "a lady of refinement" and settled into a life wherein it was said he "lived like a hermit and worked like a horse."[17]

In the fall of 1867, perhaps due in part to his heavy workload, Arrington suffered a "paralytic stroke."[18] On Dec. 31, 1867, he died. His success in Chicago had been so great that upon his death the Chicago Bar issued a lengthy Memorial of Alfred W. Arrington, filled with encomiums to the fallen judge. Alfred W. Arrington, the man who had the ability "to electrify an audience beyond all living men"[19] and whose written work is, despite its frequent flights of fancy, of enduring significance to our local history, was no more.

James H. Van Hoose

James H. Van Hoose, especially when compared to someone like A. W. Arrington, was a solid beacon of rationality and stability. Van Hoose was born in Kentucky on January 8, 1830, and came to Arkansas with his family in May of 1839.[20] The family settled near the Middle Fork of the White River in the White River Township.[21]

Van Hoose worked for his father until he was 21 years old when he walked to the Ozark Institute in Mount Comfort northwest of Fayetteville[22] to further his education under the tutelage of school president Rev. Robert Mecklin, noted Methodist minister and early Washington County educator. He spent some fifteen months at the institute where he paid for his schooling by working for Rev. Mecklin for $13 a month.[23]

On March 12, 1852,[24] Van Hoose moved to Fayetteville and began working as a clerk in the general store of James Sutton. In November 1855 Sutton went out of business, selling his store to Wil-

liam McIlroy, Van Hoose's new father-in-law.[25] Just three months earlier, on August 9, 1855, he had married Melinda Ann, McIlroy's only daughter. In 1864, Melinda died and in 1869 Van Hoose married Martha W. Skelton, daughter of William Skelton.[26]

Throughout this time, even after the death of his first wife, Van Hoose continued to work for and then partnered with William McIlroy in both the mercantile and banking businesses. Finally, in 1881-1882, Van Hoose severed his connection to the McIlroy businesses and went into life-insurance, which he followed for the "rest of his life."[27] Actively involved in local politics as well as business, he was elected mayor of Fayetteville twice, serving from 1880-1881 and again from 1888-1890.[28] He also served one term (1897) in the Arkansas General Assembly.[29]

Van Hoose was also a very prominent Mason, joining the organization in 1853 and over the years serving as Grand Master, Grand High Priest and Grand Commander.[30] He was friends with Albert Pike, the well-known poet, adventurer, soldier and Mason himself. Pike "was a central figure in the development of Masonry"[31] in the state of Arkansas and as grand commander signed Van Hoose's 32nd degree certificate for the group.[32]

Van Hoose also thought of himself as a poet but is remembered today for his "many sketches" of our early history, "graphically" portraying "scenes of pioneer life in Arkansas."[33] He was a correspondent for several papers outside Fayetteville,[34] writing for Little Rock and eastern newspapers.[35]

One of the more interesting stories about Van Hoose, rather than written by him, concerned an early 1865 trip he took to Washington, D.C. His first wife, Melinda, had died in the fall of 1864 and his brothers Peter and Zach, captured Confederate soldiers, were confined by the Union to the Springfield, Missouri, area. While visiting them in Springfield, he learned that another brother, George, also a Confederate soldier, was doing poorly in the Union Prison Camp at Johnson's Island, Ohio.[36]

Setting off from Fayetteville in mid-winter, Van Hoose went to Washington by way of St. Louis, Indianapolis and Philadelphia. He arrived in the capital on Feb. 17 and after enduring long waits and

FLASHBACK, JULY 1974

James H. Van Hoose in the regalia of the Masonic Lodge, where he served in a variety of leadership positions.

assurances he could not see the president finally met Abraham Lincoln in person on Feb. 20, 1865. After some discussion and delicate negotiations on his part, Van Hoose was able to get a note from the president allowing a visit with George Van Hoose. Lincoln's note indicated "contraband" was not allowed but Van Hoose was able to provide his brother with clothing, blankets, food and the like.[37] Peter Van Hoose died in March 1865 and was brought home for burial in the family plot in Fayetteville.[38] Zach and George survived the war to return home. They died in 1887 and 1909, respectively.

In early 1882, Van Hoose wrote two very important local history articles. The first of these was printed in the March 15 issue of the *Fayetteville Sentinel*, founded by veteran newsman James R. Pettigrew in 1875.[39] Entitled "Fayetteville Thirty Years Ago," the article commemorated Van Hoose's 30th year in town. In it, he described what things were like on March 8, 1852, when he came to stay in the "pretty little village of about 600 inhabitants."[40]

He describes Robert Graham's Ozark College and Sophia Sawyer's Female Seminary and lists our hotels (two), wagon shops (two), groceries/saloons (two) and lawyers (many). He gives us the cost of foodstuffs (potatoes at 10 cents per bushel, corn at 20 cents per bushel) and the cost of a soda at the new drug store (James Stevenson's): "two glasses for 10c."[41]

In the May 25, 1882, issue of the weekly *Fayetteville Democrat*, Van Hoose wrote about the town's "Early History." In this article he presented a "sketch" of Fayetteville from March of 1829 through December of 1830 based on records found in the "vaults" of the County Clerk's office. He gives us court officials and grand jurors, and tells of the building of the first courthouse – including the amount allocated for its construction: $49.75.[42]

On April 19, 1889, Van Hoose wrote a reminiscence of the California gold mine expedition that left Fayetteville in April 1849 – forty years before. He tells us what that day was like ("snow was falling all day"), how the adventurers went (ox-pulled wagons), and who led them (Lewis Evans, first sheriff of Washington County).[43]

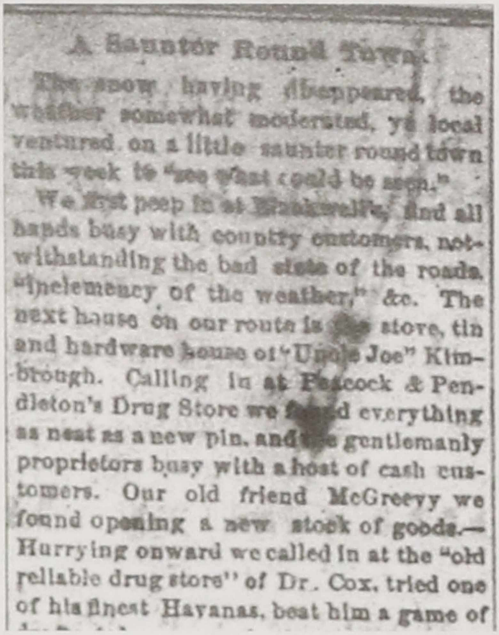
He then recalls many of the men who made the trip and the few who still remain in 1889. "Mr. S. K. Stone," Van Hoose says, "is the

only one living who was then engaged here selling goods." Among the lawyers, he tells us, were A.M. Wilson, W.D. Reagan, and Judge David Walker. In closing, Van Hoose comments about how much Fayetteville had changed over those forty years and that he expects more change to come in the next forty. "If I am here April 15, 1929," he promised in referring to the expected changes, "I will write them up for you."[44] It's no doubt the town's loss that he did not get that chance.

On Saturday, May 6, 1899, while hunting, Van Hoose's rifle accidentally discharged. The recoil hit him "with such force that an internal injury was inflicted, resulting in his death soon afterward."[45] An "unfortunate accident"[46] had extinguished the life of one of Fayetteville's most prominent citizens and in the opinion of many, the town's "first important historian."[47]

E.B. Moore?

In the early 1870s, an anonymous writer took "saunters" around the Square, describing the stores and people he met in his leisurely walks. They were breezy, light tours, enjoyable not just for the running descriptions but for the specific details about the Square as it was 145 years ago, giving us the written equivalent of a time capsule.



A Saunter Round Town.

The snow having disappeared, the weather somewhat moderated, ye local ventured on a little saunter round town this week to "see what could be seen."

We first peep in at Blackwell's, find all hands busy with country customers, notwithstanding the bad state of the roads, "inclemency of the weather," &c. The next house on our route is the stove, tin and hardware house of "Uncle Joe" Kimbrough. Calling in at Peacock & Pendleton's Drug Store we found everything as neat as a new pin, and the gentlemanly proprietors busy with a host of cash customers. Our old friend McGreevy we found opening a new stock of goods.—Hurrying onward we called in at the "old reliable drug store" of Dr. Cox, tried one of his finest Havanas, beat him a game of

The following brief excerpt is from the December 1871 "saunter" and gives a fair notion of how each of the articles was presented in the *Democrat*:

The snow having disappeared, the weather having

somewhat moderated, ye local ventured on a little saunter round town this week to "see what could be seen."

We first peep in at Blackwell's (on the North Side), find all hands busy with country customers, notwithstanding the bad state of the roads, "inclemency of the weather, &c." The next house on our route is the stove, tin and hardware house of "Uncle Joe" Kimbrough. Calling in at Peacock & Pendleton's Drug Store we found everything as neat as a new pin, and the gentlemanly proprietors busy with a host of cash customers.[48]

Each visit ends back at "the office." Because the columns appear in the *Fayetteville Democrat*, which was put out by brothers E.B. and W.B. Moore, it seems reasonable to assume that one of these men was the "saunterer."

E.B. Moore had sustained a serious wound to his hip at the Battle of Oak Hills, better known by its Union-labeled name of Wilson's Creek, in Missouri. Because of this severe injury and the difficulty it gave E.B. Moore the rest of his life, the best guess as to the identity of the anonymous "saunterer" is that it was his brother, W.B. Moore – but there's no direct evidence available to confirm this.

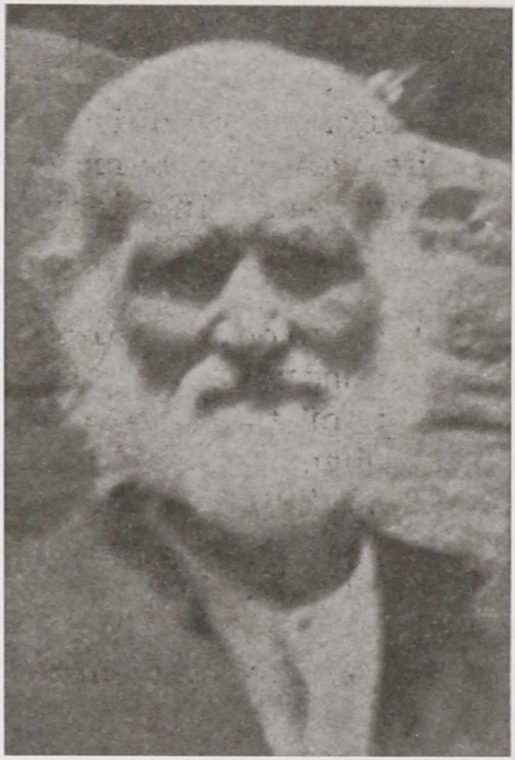
Augustus B. Lewis

Another contributor to Fayetteville history from this era was Augustus B. "Uncle Gus" Lewis. Born in Hempstead County in 1835, Lewis came to Fayetteville with his family in 1844. He attended Rev. Robert Graham's Arkansas College in the early 1850s and had a store on the Square at the outbreak of the Civil War. He enlisted in the Confederate Army and served the full four years of the war, seeing action at the Battle of Wilson Creek.[49]

After the war, with his store burned to the ground and himself heavily in debt, he worked for several years as a clerk at Baum & Brothers, a long-running store on the East side of the Fayetteville Square. The south side of the Baum & Brothers store stood where Lewis' store had prior to the war.[50]

Around 1875, Lewis "established the first known Dickson

Street business." His mercantile was located approximately where George's Majestic Lounge is today.[51] In the early 1900s, he served as a commissioner on the Dickson Street Improvement District.[52] In 1922, he joined a group of residents who successfully defeated an attempt to rename Dickson Street to Main Street.[53]



FLASHBACK, JULY 1976

"Uncle Gus" Lewis

Lewis was said to be a "mine of information for those seeking stories of former days" and "was willing to talk of the past."[54] His recollections had appeared after World War I in local papers like the *Fayetteville Sentinel* and the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*. They were reprinted in a series of 1960 issues of *Flashback*, the journal of the Washington County Historical Society.

The "Civil War Reminiscences of A. B. 'Uncle Gus' Lewis" appeared in the January 1960 *Flashback* and consisted of three stories about treachery, combat, and graft.[55] "'Uncle Gus' Lewis Tells of Old Saloon Days in Fayetteville" was in the April 1960 *Flashback* and told the humorous story of how a local saloon-keeper who sold whiskey at 10 cents by the horn was duped by a traveling man who got the better of the deal by producing an oxen horn three feet long

to be filled with whiskey. The locals enjoyed the joke so much they and the traveler pulled it on two other unsuspecting barkeeps before the man "returned to his wagon, replaced his horn, and like the wild goose, returned north to his old haunts." The horn it turned out, could hold three quarts of whiskey – a great deal for the drinker but not so much for the saloon.[56]

In "Chasing Guerrillas in Arkansas," Lewis tells of being part of a Confederate unit that pursued and defeated a guerrilla band, hanging its two vicious leaders. As it turned out, in 1867, back home in Washington County after the war, Lewis met Nelson Hewitt, who had been captured by the same guerrilla group but managed to safely escape. The following year, Lewis met Hewitt's daughter Rebecca and they married in 1869.[57]

"Uncle Gus" Lewis remained in Fayetteville for the rest of his life, running his mercantile business and serving two years as Washington County Treasurer in 1872-1874. After retiring, he was known for his knowledge of local history and his ability to predict the weather.[58] He passed in 1928.

James Preston Neal

James Preston Neal (1820-1896) was an early settler of Washington County, a lawyer, businessman, military veteran, philanthropist, local historian, and the founder of Prairie Grove, Arkansas. In 1829, the nine-year-old Kentucky native arrived in Prairie Grove with his stepfather and mother, Andrew and Sinai Buchanan, younger brother, William Neal, and Mary Woods, a "young lady" the Buchanan's had adopted while in Kentucky.[59]

After studying law in Fayetteville at Judge David Walker's office, Neal was admitted to the Arkansas bar and then became Walker's partner. A year after the outbreak of the Mexican-American War in 1846, Neal joined the Arkansas Mounted Volunteers where he became a first lieutenant and fought in Mexico. During his military service, he met two future presidents: Jefferson Davis, who led the Confederate States of America during the Civil War, and Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th President of the United States. After the war ended in 1848, First Lieutenant Neal returned to Fayetteville and his previous occupation as a lawyer.[60]

In 1849, Neal married Adaline Bean,[61] the daughter of wealthy Cane Hill businessman Mark Bean. Three years later, Neal won a position on the Fayetteville Town Council and was appointed its "chief alderman or mayor."[62] After Neal had served two years, he and his wife moved from Fayetteville to Austin, Texas, due to Adaline's ill health.[63] During their time in Austin, the couple had six children with only two surviving, Sam and Eleanora.[64]

Neal became an active supporter of the Confederacy during the Civil War by donating money to help supply their forces. He was also a presidential elector and cast his vote for Jefferson Davis to serve a second term as President of the Confederate States. His financial and political support of the Confederacy eventually earned him a military appointment of Colonel.[65] In 1864, Neal received word that his brother, William, who was also a Colonel in the Confederate Army, had been killed by Union soldiers near Clarksville, Arkansas. Several local women buried William after the battle, but in 1884, Neal had his brother's body exhumed and laid to rest in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.[66]

Adaline's health declined further in the early years of the Civil War and she passed away in 1863. Five years later, Neal moved from Austin back to Fayetteville, where he and fellow lawyer, James M. Pitman, set up the law practice of Neal & Pitman.[67] In 1869, he married his brother William's widow, Lucy Jane Tinin Neal, and the couple had two sons, James Preston II and Jay Dudley, and one daughter, Sinai Belle.[68] Neal moved the family back to his childhood home in Prairie Grove in 1871 so he could focus on increasing the town's population and developing a business district.[69] He was installed as Prairie Grove's second postmaster in 1872, replacing J.H. Addison, who had been appointed two years earlier.[70]

Neal was active in the local Democrat Party and in 1872, was elected as a delegate to the Democratic State Convention in Little Rock.[71] He was a Mason, a member of the Methodist Church, and a justice of the peace in the 1870s for Mountain Township.[72] Neal also organized a Mexican War veterans group that met in Fayetteville and sometimes Prairie Grove, where the colonel would host his fellow veterans "in handsome style."[73]

In 1877, Neal asked Washington County surveyor, J.A. Buchanan, to map out Prairie Grove's main street area. Buchanan used "stones and stone coal" to mark certain sections of town. There were five roads recorded on the plat: Garrison Avenue and Buchanan, Kate Smith, Mock, and Neal streets.[74]

It appears that Neal's historical writings began in the 1880s with articles that chronicled his childhood experiences in Prairie Grove and other early 19th century Washington County incidents. Several of his stories were published or reprinted in the *Fayetteville Democrat* in 1885, the *Prairie Grove Enterprise* in 1938, and the most detailed of these remembrances appeared in 1955 in three editions of *Flashback*. In these accounts, Neal described his family's journey from Kentucky in early 1829 and their arrival in Cane Hill on September 3rd of that year, where they stayed with his stepfather's brother, James Buchanan. In the *Flashback* article, Neal described arriving at their new home:

> We reached the spring; the older portion of the company commenced unloading the wagons; the younger ones to explore the surroundings. The spring and branch were alive with small fish, and the surrounding country abounded with birds and prairie chickens. ... At night the camp-lamp in front of the house was lighted, giving light for a hundred and fifty or two hundred yards around, astonishing the screech-owl, the night-owl, other forest birds and the smaller animals. About 10 o'clock the family retired; the young ones to sleep; the older ones to think.

Neal recalled an incident one night in 1833 that created such panic and fear "Women swooned and strong men trembled" as stars continuously fell from the sky. During the event, some of the locals blew horns and fired guns to alert the rest of the settlers, who then assembled at Andrew Buchanan's home. Neal's stepfather was an ordained Cumberland Presbyterian minister and the townspeople most likely turned to him for guidance in what appeared to be the end of the world.[75]

Neal also shared a story about an unplanned gathering at his house when a group of horsemen rode into town around the fall of 1834. At that time, fourteen-year-old Neal and the other youngsters in town were being educated in a "log schoolhouse" near the present-day corner of Buchanan and Kate Smith streets in Prairie Grove. One day while Neal and his classmates were outside taking a break from their lessons they were approached by several "servants" with packhorses, along with "five or six gentlemen, gorgeously dressed and finely mounted." The riders stopped and asked for directions to the spring so they could rest and water their horses. As the men received directions, one of the students asked a servant who the men were. To their surprise, they were informed that two of the party included former Tennessee Governor Sam Houston and Resin [Rezin] Bowie, who Neal credited as the inventor of the Bowie knife. Houston and the others were on their way to Archibald Yell's law office in Fayetteville in order to pick up documents and letters sent to them from President Andrew Jackson.[76]

In 1888, the *Fayetteville Democrat* printed Neal's account of the beginning of the Battle of Prairie Grove on December 7, 1862. His widowed mother, Sinai Buchanan, still lived at their home near the spring and possibly told Neal of the events since he was still living in Austin at the time. At dawn on the day of the battle before the first shots were fired, four men on horseback, presumably Confederates, rode up to the house and asked one of the Buchanan slaves, Beck, if she knew of any Union soldiers that were inside. Minutes later, several of the boys in blue were seen running from the house headed west toward the Federal camp. The riders wheeled their horses back towards their own encampment and the battle soon began.[77]

In the same article, Neal tells the story of John Sharp, a private in the Confederate army who fought at the Battle of Prairie Grove. As Sharp and his fellow soldiers marched into Prairie Grove, he told them the landscape reminded him of a dream he'd had the previous week. In the dream, he and his regiment had passed through mountains and then arrived at a valley where they engaged Union troops in a battle. In his dream, a soldier next to him was shot in the face above an eye and immediately fell to the ground. When Sharp ran

over to assist him, he saw the face of the soldier and realized he was looking at himself. A short time later during the actual battle, Private John Sharp was killed instantly when he was shot in the head, right above an eye.[78]

Health issues prompted Neal's retirement as postmaster in 1887, but he continued to write articles about the early history of Prairie Grove and Washington County for the next several years.[79] His wife, Lucy, died in 1893 and Neal passed away in 1896. Both are buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery near Neal's first wife, Adaline, and his brother, William.[80]

Notes

1. "The Story of Alfred W. Arrington," Ted R. Worley, *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 14, No. 4, Winter 1955, p. 315.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid, p. 317.
4. *Biographical and Pictorial History of Arkansas*, John B. Hallum, Albany: Weed, Parsons and Co., Printers, 1887, p. 281.
5. *Flashback*, Vol. 6, No. 1, Jan. 1956, p. 3.
6. *Goodspeed's Washington County History, Washington County, Arkansas*, Goodspeed Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1889, p. 201.
7. *Flashback*, Volume VI, Number 1, Jan. 1956, p. 2.
8. For fully detailed accounts of these 1839 bloody incidents, see Walter J. Lemke, "Violent History or Historical Violence," *Flashback*, Vol. VI, No. 1, January 1956; and David Malone, "The Cane Hill Murders, Part I," *Flashback*, Vol. 47, No. 4, November 1997, pp. 4-23, "The Cane Hill Murders, Part II," *Flashback*, Vol. 48, No. 1, February 1998, pp. 2-13, and "The Gazette Reports on the 'Fuss at Fayetteville,'" *Flashback*, Vol. 48, No. 2, May 1998, pp. 2-22.
9. "The Desperado as Hero," Phillip Durham, *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XIV, No. 4, Winter 1955, pp. 340-341.
10. "The Story of Alfred W. Arrington," Ted R. Worley, *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XIV, No. 4, Winter 1955, pp. 326-327.
11. Ibid., p. 316.
12. Ibid., p. 328.
13. *Goodspeed's Washington County History*, p. 159.
14. *Biographical and Pictorial History of Arkansas*, p. 281.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid., p. 282.
17. Ibid.
18. "The Story of Alfred W. Arrington," Worley, p. 337.
19. *Memorial of Alfred W. Arrington*, Chicago Bar, Chicago, Illinois, 1868, p. 12. The memorial, 70 pages long, includes a 24-page biography with Arrington's temperance sketch "Apostrophe to Water" and his poem "Flora." The remainder of the document is made up of tributes from Arrington's colleagues in law and politics.

20. Van Hoose's obituary in the *Fayetteville Democrat*, May 8, 1899, says the family arrived in Arkansas on June 1, 1839.
21. *Goodspeed's Washington County History*, p. 1030.
22. Mount Comfort is, today, a part of Fayetteville.
23. *Goodspeed's Washington County History*, p. 1030.
24. Some accounts give 1850 as the date Van Hoose moved to Fayetteville and others say 1853. He gave the date himself as March 8, 1852, in an article on page 1 of the *Fayetteville Sentinel*, March 15, 1882. The 1852 date was repeated in the 1889 *Goodspeed's History of Washington County*, p. 1030.
25. *The Square Book: An Illustrated History of the Fayetteville Square 1828-2016*, Anthony J. Wappel with J. B. Hogan, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 2017, pp. 157-158.
26. *Goodspeed's Washington County History*, p. 1030.
27. Obituary of James Hayden Van Hoose, *Fayetteville Democrat*, May 8, 1899.
28. Ibid.
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid.
31. "Albert Pike (1809-1891)," entry in the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, Carl Moneyhon, http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=1737 (accessed June 24, 2018).
32. *Flashback*, Vol. 11, No. 4, November 1961, p. 29.
33. Ibid., p. 33.
34. *Goodspeed's Washington County History*, p. 1030.
35. *Flashback*, Vol. 11, No. 4, November 1961, p. 30.
36. "A Fayetteville Man, on an Unusual Errand, Meets Abraham Lincoln," Mildred Mayhill Crawford, *Flashback*, Vol. 13, No. 4, October 1963, p. 3.
37. Ibid., pp. 7, 10.
38. Ibid., p. 3.
39. *Goodspeed's Washington County History*, p. 245.
40. "Fayetteville Thirty Years Ago," James H. Van Hoose, *Fayetteville Sentinel*, March 15, 1882, p. 1.
41. Ibid.
42. "Early History," James H. Van Hoose, *Fayetteville Democrat*, May 25, 1882, p. 3.
43. "1849," James H. Van Hoose, *Fayetteville Democrat*, April 19, 1889, p. 3.
44. Ibid.
45. Obituary of James Hayden Van Hoose, *Fayetteville Democrat*, May 8, 1899.
46. Ibid.
47. *Flashback*, Vol 11, No. 4, November 1961, p. 30.
48. *Fayetteville Democrat*, Dec. 9, 1871, p. 3.
49. *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, Jan. 30, 1928, p. 1.
50. Ibid.
51. *Once Upon Dickson*, Anthony J. Wappel, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 2008, p. 67.
52. Ibid., p. 70.
53. Ibid., p. 214.
54. *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, Jan. 30, 1928, p. 1.
55. *Flashback*, Vol. 10, No. 1, Jan. 1960, pp. 9-13.
56. *Flashback*, Vol. 10, No. 2, April 1960, pp. 35-36.
57. *Flashback*, Vol. 10, No. 3, July 1960, pp. 15-20.
58. *Once Upon Dickson*, Anthony J. Wappel, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 2008, pp. 233-234.

59. "Migration and Settlement of My Stepfather and Family; My First Day and First Ramble in the Valley," Col. James Preston Neal, Sr., *Flashback* Vol. 5, No. 3, June 1955, pp. 8-9. This was the first installment of a three-part series in *Flashback* that was edited by Tom Feathers. The second and third installments were both titled "The Memoirs of Col. J.P. Neal" and were in the August and December 1955 editions of *Flashback*.
60. Ibid.
61. Her first name is also spelled as "Adeline" in other documents.
62. "The Prairie Grove Valley and Its Communities; Part One," Willard B. Gatewood, *Flashback*, Vol. 53, No. 1, Winter 2003, p. 20.
63. Ibid.
64. "James Preston Neal," Luginbuel Funeral Home, accessed June 18, 2018, http://www.luginbuel.com/genealogy/person/i47310, and "Death of Col. J.P. Neal," p. 2.
65. Ibid.
66. "Prairie Grove," *Fayetteville Democrat*, Aug. 14, 1884, p. 3.
67. Advertisement, *Fayetteville Democrat*, Sept. 26, 1868, p. 1.
68. "James Preston Neal," and "Death of Col. J.P. Neal," p. 2.
69. *History of Benton, Washington, Carroll, Madison, Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas*, Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 265.
70. "Prairie Grove Items," *Fayetteville Democrat*, Feb. 9, 1878, p. 2.
71. "Personal Items," *Fayetteville Democrat*, June 15, 1872, p. 5.
72. "Death of Col. J.P. Neal," p. 2, and "Directory; Township Officers," *Fayetteville Democrat*, May 4, 1872, p. 4, and "Directory; Township Officers," *Fayetteville Democrat*, Oct. 30, 1875, p. 8.
73. "Local Affairs," *Fayetteville Democrat*, Feb. 14, 1880, p. 3.
74. Plat of Prairie Grove, Surveyed by J.A. Buchanan, Sept. 24, 1877.
75. Ibid, and James P. Neal, p. 10. The 1833 Leonid meteor shower was seen by many people in North America who observed thousands of meteors falling from the sky. "Leonid Meteor Shower 1833," Eleanor Imster, earthsky.org, Nov. 16, 2018, accessed June 10, 2018, http://earthsky.org/?p=209177.
76. "The Memoirs of Col. J.P. Neal," Tom Feathers, ed., *Flashback*, Vol. V, No. 6, December 1955, pp. 5-6. These letters and documents from Andrew Jackson may have dealt with early plans regarding independence efforts for the Mexican territory of Texas from the Mexican Government. In 1836, some of this land became the Republic of Texas and Sam Houston was elected its President.
77. "Prairie Grove Battle," J.P. Neal, *Fayetteville Democrat*, Dec. 14, 1888, p. 2.
78. Ibid.
79. "Prairie Grove Items," p. 2.
80. "James Preston Neal."

Call for Submissions: Prize for Writing Articles on History of Washington County

The Washington County Historical Society announces the ninth annual competition for the Walter J. Lemke Prize and the Lessie Stringfellow Read Prize with a call for articles.

Topics can be on any phase of Washington County's history or archeology, deal with an individual or institution connected with the county, and can address any time period. The competition is open to professional and amateur historians alike.

A $250 prize is offered in each of two categories: the Walter J. Lemke Prize for best article about Washington County history with preference given for subjects outside of Fayetteville; and the Lessie Stringfellow Read Prize, with preference given for best article about Fayetteville. Winners will be recognized at the society's annual meeting each October.

Manuscripts will be judged on their contribution to the expansion of the county's history; the originality of the subject; and, the use of primary and secondary sources. The manuscripts must be original material, and must not have been previously published; no more than 40 pages, typed, preferably with endnotes, which do not count toward the 40-page limit. The title page should contain the heading "WCHS PRIZE," the full title of the manuscript, the author's name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address.

Entries become the property of the Washington County Historical Society and will not be returned to the author. All submissions will be considered for publication in *Flashback*. The historical society reserves the right to award one or no prizes.

Copies of all entries in the Lemke and Read Prizez will be deposited with the Special Collections Department at the University of Arkansas Libraries. Entries may be mailed to Lemke Prize, Washington County Historical Society, 118 E. Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701, or emailed to charlie.alison@gmail.com by June 30, 2019.

For additional information on the prizes, please contact Charlie Alison at the above mailing address, at 575-6731 or at charlie.alison@gmail.com.

Join the Washington County Historical Society

Become a member by filling out the form below and sending it with check to:

Washington County Historical Society
118 E. Dickson Street
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Name_____ Phone _____

Address_____

City_____ State____ Zip_____

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Membership Levels (check one)

❑ $15 Senior, Student, Public Libraries
❑ $25 General Membership
❑ $50 Trail Blazer
❑ $100 Explorer
❑ $250 Wagon Master
❑ $500 Pioneer
❑ $1,000 Statesman
❑ $5,000 Empire Builder

Washington County Historical Society is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation. Gifts above membership of $25 are tax deductible.

Two Press Releases Related to Murray Sheehan

In 1920, the university hired Murray Sheehan to teach journalism courses and produce the university's press releases. He worked from 1920 to 1924, and was responsible news releases about both the academic side of campus and the athletic fields. He tended to assign students to write the athletic material, including a young Robert A. Leflar, who later served as dean of the School of Law.

Most of those releases are held at the Special Collections Department of the University Libraries, part of the Bob and Patty Besom Collections, which includes press releases from the late teens into the early 1940s.

Along with those regular releases, two releases during Sheehan's period in the collection seemed outside the norm. Sheehan wrote one about the two hills of Fayetteville as part of the opening of the Methodist Assembly on Mount Sequoyah. The two hills, of course, were Mount Sequoyah and the University of Arkansas campus.

The author of the second release — a short biography of Sheehan — is unknown. It could have been written by Sheehan himself, or it could have been written by Leflar or another student.

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Sunday Special

Copies to Times Record
Arkansas Gazette
May 15, 1923

Fayetteville, May --------: One of the most interesting young men in this section of the state is Professor James Murray Sheehan, head of the department of Journalism at the University of Arkansas. Although only 35 years old, Professor Sheehan has had wide travels

and experience and is already very favorably known as a popular writer.

Mr. Sheehan has just completed a popular booklet on "The History of Music" for the Haldeman-Julius press of Girard, Kansas. At the present time he is working on a "History of Painting" and is under contract to do a "History of Sculpture" and a "History of Architecture" as a part of the same series. He is also doing a number of popular lectures here in the University.

Professor Sheehan graduated with honors from Miami University, Oxford Ohio, in 1907. In 1917 he took his master's degree from Harvard, going immediately into the service following his work at Harvard. He was overseas 12 months during the war, four months of which time was spent at the University of Paris, as a member of the regular army division, enlisted man. In addition to his war experiences in Europe, Prof. Sheehan has been abroad six times, traveling extensively through England and over the continent. Recently he capitalized his experiences in Europe in two splendid lectures at the University, one before the University Art students on French and European art, and the other before a general University and town audience on "The Cathedrals of France."

Professor Sheehan lives in a small rock cottage near Farmington, some three miles from the University in a hoe which he largely constructed himself. The cottage is near the Charles J. Finger home, Mr. Finer and Mr. Sheehan being close friends. On his home place, which he has named "Hut Canassa," Mr. Sheehan is conducting some very interesting agricultural experiments in grapes and Tanworth hogs.

Last year Mr. Sheehan spent the summer in Europe. This summer he will remain at "Hut Canassa" and write, having an extensive literary schedule before him. He has just sold two works "Hints on Newspaper Writing" and "Hints on Scenario writing."

Incidentally Mr. Sheehan is a brother of Perley Poore Sheehan of Hollywood, well known scenario writer and motion picture director. Professor Sheehan is contemplating doing some commercial work in scenarios with the completion of his present writing schedule.

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RAZORBACK YEARBOOK

Murray Sheehan, who worked as a publicist for the university and taught journalism courses, wrote two novels while in Fayetteville. The first was titled *Halfgods* and it was a thinly veiled story of Fayetteville, its customs and people. His satire poked fun at nearly everyone, including a university president not easily mistaken for his own boss, John C. Futrall. His second book, *Eden*, took the story of Adam and Eve from Genesis and provided new details, nuance and complications but also answers to some age-old theological questions.

From left, Charles F. Finger, author Charles J. Finger and Murray

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Sheehan at the Finger's homestead, Gayetta.

Story by Sheehan

[Written in pencil: "Spec. to Ark. Meth. III-8-1923]

THE TWO HILLS OF FAYETTEVILLE

By Murray Sheehan

With the almost simultaneous opening of the first session of the General Methodist Assembly and the summer session of the University of Arkansas in June this year, Fayetteville will gain new grounds for claiming to be the perfect college town. Those who come to the University will have available to them the manifold advantaged of the great new institution on Mount Sequoyah, just as the resources of the established old institution on its westward hill will all be offered to the visitors of the Assembly.

The atmosphere of refined peace and quiet which has always marked Fayetteville is admirably adapted to a colleg [sic] town, and this feeling will only be intensified by this new addition to the civic activities. The long tree-bordered streets of homes, many of reach back to ante-bellum days, have had an effect on the young men and women who have come to the University to study. There are none of those manifest distractions in Fayetteville which tempt college students in larger cities to neglect their studies and learn other things than are included in the official curriculum of the educational body. The town is largely dominated in its tone by the educational interests.

In this way it had an advantage over many cities where larger and more famous institutions are located. For instance, Harvard, situated in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is set down on the edge of a sordid manufacturing section, not altogether admirable in its influence. Columbia University, in New York City, is locatedin the heart of a giant residence section, metropolitan in nature, and hardly the place where one would look for academic calm. Cornell is more fortunately set, although the town of Ithaca itself is not altogether attractive. Fayetteville, with its sole interest in education, and its secluded quiet, gives more the impression of Princeton or Williams, both similarly constituted.

The moral tone of the town is altogether exemplary, and in this respect also, stands in marked contrast to many college-towns more cosmopolitan in nature. There are twelve churches in the town, representing eleven denominations. The pastors of these churches actively interest themselves in the moral and spiritual welfare of the University students. There are frequent receptions and "get-together" meetings for the students, given by the various churches.

The University itself maintains two active Christian organizations within its walls, the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A.,each with its general secretary. These two groups are among the most prominent in the institution, and help to shape student life from the time the freshman feels their welcoming hand upon arrival the station, to the farewell services given in honor to departing seniors. Gospel teams are sent out on many Sunday afternoons to hold services at nearby country churches, and latterly a series of student concerts have also been organized for small neighboring communities which otherwise have no entertainment of this type.

Much of the work of the Associations is carried on jointly. A mission Sunday school in a suburb of Fayetteville is directed by students, and during the year socials and a Christmas tree are given. Both Associations have Bible discussion groups led by faculty members and students. Special emphasis is put on World Fellowship work, and a Student Volunteer Band has been organized.

The social life of the University is much helped by the Associations, which give a reception at the beginning of the year, in honor of new faculty members and students. Halloween, Valentine, and other socials are given.

Speakers of national and international reputation are brought to the University under Association auspices, and strong emphasis is placed on evangelistic and life-work campaigns. No other organizations on the campus have so large a field of usefulness or so unifying an influence over the twelve hundred students of the University as have these. Practically every student is an Association member.

Articles about Agriculture and Agricultural Businesses From The Arkansas Countryman

EDITOR'S NOTE: Alexandria Rogers of Fayetteville provided the Flashback *with an original issue of* The Arkansas Countryman, *from Sept. 17, 1931. T*he Arkansas Countryman *published in Fayetteville from 1919 to 1934. The paper, as its name suggests, covered agricultural and rural stories more consistently than other Washington County newspapers of the period. This particular issue included several articles about Savoy and its agricultural-related businesses.*

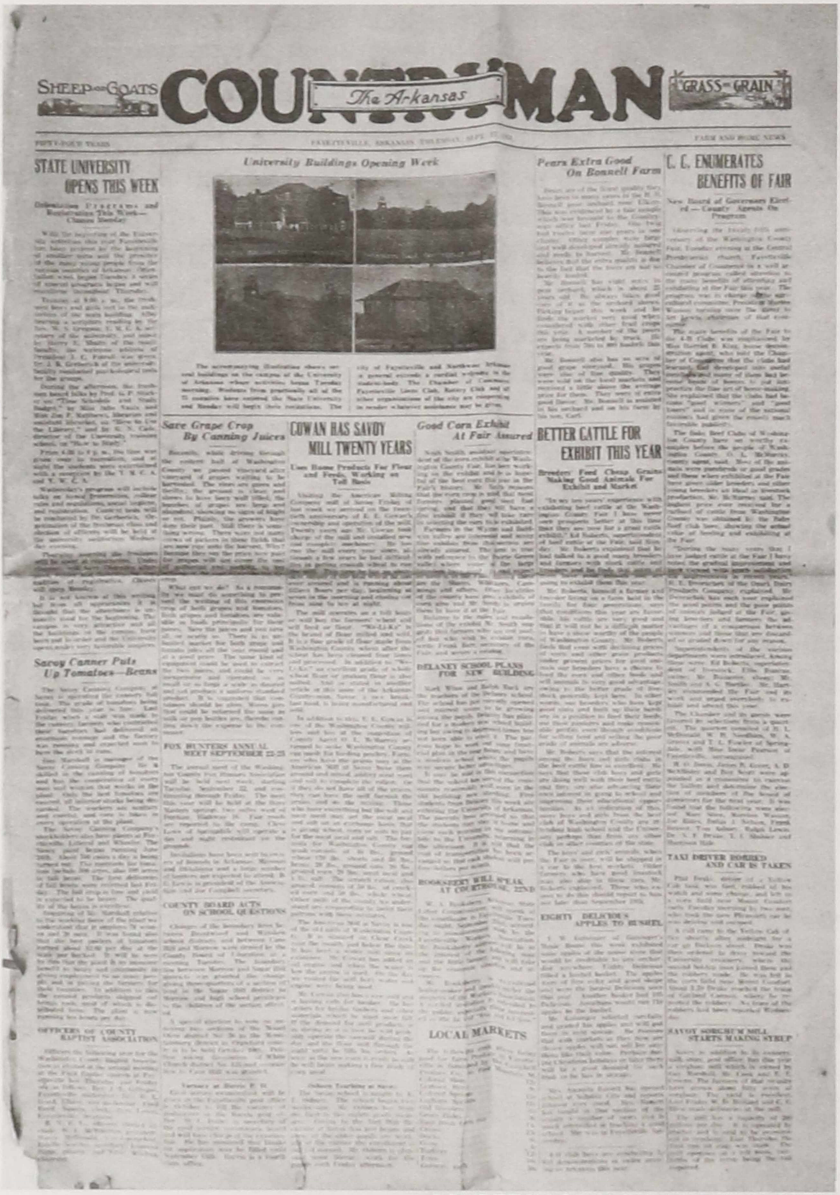
The paper also included a whole column of recipes, promotion of the upcoming Washington County Fair, and syndicated features such as Will Rogers' column and a Sunday School lesson.

Savoy Canner Puts Up Tomatoes—Beans

The Savoy Canning Company at Savoy is operating the cannery full time. The grade of tomatoes being delivered this year is fine. Last Friday when a visit was made to the cannery, farmers who contracted their tomatoes had delivered an enormous tonnage and the factory was running and expected soon to have the stock in cans.

Guy Marshall is manager of the Savoy Canning Company. He is skilled in the canning of tomatoes and has the cooperation of every man and woman that works in the plant. Only the best tomatoes are canned, all inferior stocks being discarded. The workers are sanitary and careful, and care is taken in every operation at the plant.

The Savoy Canning Company's stockholders also have plants at Fayetteville, Litteral and Wheeler. The Savoy plant began running June 24th. About 700 cases a day is being turned out. The contracts for tomatoes include 300 acres, also 100 acres in fall beans. The



SHEEP and GOATS **COUNTRYMAN** The Arkansas GRASS and GRAIN

FORTY-FOUR YEARS FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS, THURSDAY, SEPT. 27, 1934 FARM AND HOME NEWS

STATE UNIVERSITY OPENS THIS WEEK

Orientation Directions and Registration This Week—Classes Monday

University Buildings Opening Week

Save Grape Crop By Canning Juices

COWAN HAS SAVOY MILL TWENTY YEARS

Uses Home Products For Flour and Feeds, Working on Toll Basis

Good Corn Exhibit At Fair Assured

BETTER CATTLE FOR EXHIBIT THIS YEAR

Breeders' Fund Cheap, Grains Making Good Livestock For Exhibit and Market

Pears Extra Good On Bonnell Farm

C. C. ENUMERATES BENEFITS OF FAIR

New Board of Governors Elected — County Agents On Program

Savoy Canner Puts Up Tomatoes—Beans

FOX HUNTERS' ANNUAL MEET SEPTEMBER 22-23

DELANEY SCHOOL PLANS FOR NEW BUILDING

BOOKKEEPER WILL SWEAT AT COURTHOUSE, JUDD

COUNTY BOARD ACTS ON SCHOOL QUESTIONS

EIGHTY DELICIOUS APPLES TO BUSHEL

TAXI DRIVER ROBBED AND CAR IS TAKEN

LOCAL MARKETS

SAVOY SORGHUM MILL STARTS MAKING SYRUP

COURTESY OF ALEXANDRIA ROGERS

The front page of *The Arkansas Countryman* includes stories about the opening of the University of Arkansas, the Washington County Fair, and several articles about Savoy.

first deliveries of fall beans were received last Friday. The fall crop is fine and yield is expected to be heavy. The quality of the beans is excellent.

Inquiring of Mr. Marshall relative to the working force of the plant we understand that it employs 70 women and 20 men. It was found also that the best peelers of tomatoes earned about $2.00 per day at the scale per bucked. It will be seen by this that the plant is an immense benefit to Savoy and community in giving employment to so many people and in paying the farmers for their tomatoes. In addition to this the canned products shipped out brings cash, most of which is distributed here. The plant is now running ten hours per day.

Savoy Sorghum Mill Starts Making Syrup

Savoy in addition to its cannery, mill, store, post office, has this year a sorghum mill which is owned by Guy Marshall, Mr. Cook and E.E. Cowan. The farmers of that vicinity have grown about fifty acres of sorghum. The yield is excellent. Last Friday W.D. Holland and C.G. Blew made deliveries at the mill.

The mill has a capacity of 200 gallons per day. It is operated by tractor and is said to be economical in crushing. Last Thursday the first run on cane was made. The mill operates on a toll basis, two fifths of the syrup being the toll required.

Cowan Has Savoy Mill Twenty Years

Uses Home Products For Flour And Feeds, Working on Toll Basis

Visiting the American Milling Company mill at Savoy Friday of

last week we arrived on the twentieth anniversary of E.E. Cowan's ownership and operation of the mill. Twenty years ago Mr. Cowan took charge of the mill and installed new and complete machinery. He has run the mill every year since, although a few years he had difficulties in getting enough wheat to run the mill. This year he has an abundant supply of the best wheat he has ever secured and is running about fifteen hours per day, beginning at seven in the morning and closing out from nine to ten at night.

The mill operates on a toll basis or will buy the farmers' wheat and sell feed or flour. "We-Li-a" is the brand of flour milled and sold. It is a fine grade of the flour made from Washington County wheat after the wheat has been cleaned four times and processed. In addition to "We-Li-Ka," an excellent grade of whole wheat flour or graham flour is also milled. And as stated in another article in this issue of the Arkansas Countryman, Savor, a new breakfast food, is being manufactured and sold.

In addition to this, E.E. Cowan is one of the Washington County millers and has at the suggestion of County Agent O.L. McMurray arranged to make Washington County egg mash for feeding poultry. Farmers who have the grains may at the American Mill at Savoy have the ground and mixed, adding meat meal and salt to complete the ration. Or if they do not have all of the grains, they can have the mill furnish the grains and do the mixing. Those who have everything but the salt and meat meal may get the meat meal and salt on an exchange basis, that is giving wheat, corn or oats to pay for the meat meal and salt. The formula for Washington County egg mash consists of 40 lbs., ground wheat (20 lbs., shorts and 20 lbs., bran) 20 lbs., ground oats, 20 lbs., ground corn, 20 lbs., meat meal and 1 lb., salt. The scratch ration, also ground, consists of 50 lbs., of cracked corn and 50 lbs., whole wheat. Other mills of the county we understand are cooperating to assist their patrons with these mixtures.

The American Mill at Savoy is one of the old mills of Washington County. It is situated on Clear Creek near the mouth, just below the dam. It has been a water mill since its existence. Mr. Cowan has added an oil engine and when the water is low the engine is used. On

the day we visited the mill both water and engine were being used.

Mr. Cowan also has a saw mill and is having calls for lumber. He has orders for bridge timbers and other materials which he must soon fill. If the demand for mill products is as strong as it is now he will probably operate the sawmill during the day and the flour mill through the night until he fills his orders. As soon as the new corn is ready to mill he will begin making a fine grade of corn meal.

Savoy Store Serves Lunch

The store at Savoy is now owned and managed by M.L. Babcock. He also has charge of the post office which is located in his store. Mr. Babcock carries a nice stock of groceries and general merchandize, also catering to the canning factory crew from across the way at noontime, opening and serving such things as pork and beans, cakes and pies, bread and cheese, candy and melons. We joined the crowd and had "dinner on the ground" last Friday at Savoy and enjoyed it very much.

Osburn Teaching at Savoy

The Savoy school is taught by E.E. Osburn. The school began two weeks ago. Mr. Osburn has from the first to the eighth grade inclusive. Owing to the fact that the canner at Savoy has just begun and some of the older pupils are working at the canner the enrollment is not yet normal. Mr. Osburn is planning some literary work for the pupils each Friday afternoon.

Fox Hunters Annual Meet September 22-25

The annual meet of the Washington County Fox Hunters Association will be held next week, starting Tuesday, September 22, and continuning [sic] through Friday. The meet this year will be held at

the Dave Masters springs, two miles west of Durham, Highway 16. Fair roads are reported to the camp. Cleve Lowe of Springdale will operate a day and night restaurant on the grounds.

Invitations have been sent to owners of hounds in Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma and a large number of hunters are expected to attend. B.G. Lewis is president of the Association and Joe Campbell secretary.

Delaney School Plans For New Building

Mark Winn and Ralph Buck are the teachers of the Delaney school. The school has just recently opened and interest seems to be growing among the pupils. Delaney has planned for a modern new school building but owing to the depressed times has not been able to erect it. The patrons hope to work out some financial plan in the near future and have a modern school where the pupils may secure better advantages.

It may be said in this connection that the school has served the community reasonably well even in the old building now standing. Five students from Delaney this week are entering the University of Arkansas. The parents have arranged so that they students may stay at home and come each morning in one automobile to the University, returning in the afternoon. It is said that the cost of transportation has been arranged so that each student will pay five dollars per month.

Pears Extra Good On Bonnell Farm

Pears are of the finest quality they have been in many years in the H.R. Bonnell pear orchard near Elkins. This was evidenced by a fair sample which was brought to the Countryman office last Friday. One twig had twelve large size pears in one cluster. Other samples

were large and well developed already matured and ready to harvest. Mr. Bonnell believes that the extra quality is due to the fact that the trees are not so heavily loaded.

Mr. Bonnell has eight acres in pear orchard, which is about 25 years old. He always takes good care of it as the orchard shows. Picking began this week and he finds the market very good when considered with other fruit crops this year. A number of the pears are being marketed by truck. He expects from 700 to 800 bushels this year.

Mr. Bonnell also has an acre of good grape vineyard. His grapes were also of fine quality. They were sold on the local markets and received a little above the average price for them. They were of extra good flavor. Mr. Bonnell is assisted in his orchard and on his farm by his son, Carl.

Save Grape Crop By Canning Juices

Recently, while driving through the eastern half of Washington County we passed vineyard after vineyard of grapes waiting to be harvested. The vines are green and thrifty; the ground is clean and shows to have been well tilled; the bunches of grapes are large and abundant, showing no signs of blight or rot. Plainly, the growers have done their part. Still there is something wrong. There were not many crews of pickers in these fields that are now ripe unto the harvest. Why? Because they say the price now paid for grapes will not cover the cost of gathering and packing, to say nothing of the cost of producing the crop.

What can we do? As a community we must do something to prevent the wasting of this enormous crop of both grapes and tomatoes. Both grapes and tomatoes are valuable as foods principally for their juices. Save the juices and you save all, or nearly so. There is an unlimited market for both grape and tomato juice all the year round and at a good price. The same kind of equipment could be used to extract the two juices, and could be very inexpensive and operated

on as small or as large a scale as desired and yet produce a uniform standard product. It is suggested that containers should be glass, Mason jars that could be returned the same as milk or pop bottles are, thereby cutting down the expense to the consumer.

Morris Belives [sic] in Service to Farmers

Habberton Storekeeper Says Farmers Will Depend on Income from Produce

One of the solutions for the country store problem, John Morris, storekeeper at Habberton, believes, is to give patrons as nearly complete service as possible. By this he means that the country storekeeper should save farmers as much expense in going to the larger towns for a supply as possible.

The general store at Habberton is well stocked with a line of necessities that farmers usually need. Among these are groceries, a few farm tools, filling station with gas and oils, such articles of clothing as shirts and overalls, shoes, the ordinary remedies in drugs. In addition to this Mr. Morris has a mill and does custom grinding of wheat or exchanges flour for wheat. He buys the poultry and eggs of the community and send them to Fayetteville frequently, placing them on the markets as soon as convenient.

The Morris store has been in possession of its present owner for about a year. Previous to that he was in business at Buckeye, Madison County. His records show that last year he purchased chickens and eggs and other produce to the amount of $4,000. He does not think that this year's records will be as good but he has bought considerable produce. The lower price at which these articles have sold this year makes quite a difference in the volume purchased.

Commenting on crops in the Habberton community this year,

Mr. Morris observes that they are finer than they have been, farmers tell him in years. He says that oats, wheat and corn are all good and strawberry beds set last spring are in fine condition. Tomatoes are rather late and growers complain that the yield is not what they expected early in the season.

Asked as to what he thought of the Washington County Fair this year, Mr. Morris replied that he has noticed considerable comment about the Fair and judging from the fine products that may be gathered from that community for exhibit, he looks for a most excellent Fair with good attendance from all over the county. He says that most farmers in that part of the county realize some of the many benefits to be derived from attending the Fair.

Asked what he thought of the future for farming and business in Washington County, Mr. Morris replied that businessmen must forget long profits and sell on close margins and give the best business service. Farmers will buy largely, he says, with the money from chickens, eggs, cream and other products and merchants and produce men who are able to handle these products will do farmers a great service and business is general will be benefited thereby.

County Board Acts On School Questions

Changes of the boundary lines between Brentwood and Winslow school districts and between Cane Hill and Morrow were denied by the County Board of Education at a meeting Tuesday. The boundary line between Morrow and Sugar Hill districts was granted, the change giving three-quarters of a section of land in the Sugar Hill district to Morrow and high school privileges to the children of the section affected.

A special election to vote on annexing two sections of the Mount Olive District No. 30 to the Mountainburg district in Crawford county is to be held October 10th. Petition asking dissolution of White Church district No. 125 and annexation to Cane Hill was granted.

B.P.W.C. at Work On Civic Problems

Aside from being a member of the Washington County unit of the Pantry Shelf organization to put up the surplus foods of the country for the needy, the Fayetteville Business and Professional Women's club is taking up the work of beautifying Highway 71 through Fayetteville. Each member of the club is to be responsible for one elm tree to be placed along the highway, according to announcement made by Miss Elinor Quinn, chairman of the public relations committee of the club, at the regular business meeting of the club Monday night. The club is also planning "petunia street," that is petunias to be planted along the highway next spring as an added feature in beautification. Miss Quinn also reported that the club was working to help students here for high school or the University obtain work where needed.

Miss Ethel Smith, president of the club and representative in the Pantry Shelf organization reported that the Washington County unit has already put up sixty quarts of spinach and a number of cans of fruit. The PBW will have charge of the transportation and storage of this material.

The club has collected a supply of magazines, which will be sent to Miss Beulah Shaffer at the County Superintendent's office where they will be placed in rural schools of the county that are unable to provide magazines for the children, it was announced by Miss Hazel Johnson, chairman of the magazine committee.

Eight Delicious Apples to Bushel

I.W. Guisinger of Guisinger's Music House this week exhibited some apples at the music store that would be creditable to any orchardist anywhere. Eighty Delicious filled a bushel basket and 105 Delicious. Jonathans would run 110 apples to the bushel.

Mr. Guisinger selected carefully and graded his apples and will put them in cold storage. He reasons that with markets as they now are choice apples will not sell for anything like their value. Perhaps during Christmas holidays or later there will be a good demand for such fruit as he has in storage.

J.J. West Passes At Prairie Grove

J.J. West passed away at his home at Prairie Grove, Friday, September 11th. Funeral services were held Friday afternoon at Prairie Grove.

Mr. West was the son of Jim and Treggotor West and was born at Viney Grove, seventy years ago. He had lived at Prairie Grove practically his entire life, having spent some time in California and at Rheas Mill where he has engaged in farming and stock buying. He was actively engaged in the stock buying just prior to his death and was widely known over Northwest Arkansas.

He was married to Minnie Sorenson and to this union was born one son, John Perry West, now with the Crescent Drug Store of Fayetteville. In 1904 he married Kate Armstrong, who survives him. Four other children survive him: Eula, Stanley, Mary and Virginia; also two brothers, Perry L West of Prairie Grove and Blu West of Springdale; a sister, Mrs. Cantrell of Oklahoma.

Blodgett Will Move

The Blodgett Nut Company, located in Fayetteville for the past several years, will move to Fort Smith this month, according to announcement made. The machinery will be be [sic] moved in a short time and the company expects to be in operation by September 21st. Facilities will be enlarged and the company plans to buy walnuts from farmers and produce dealers in a radius of 150 miles of Fort Smith. The company was founded in Fayetteville four years ago and

employed two men. It now employes [sic] from 75 to 100 persons.

100 Employed at Robinson Cannery

Tomatoes From 300 Acres Being Delivered—Business Is Reviewed

Robinson, Arkansas, just across the Washington County line in Benton County, situated on the Illinois River, is a prosperous community of this season of the year. On our visit there last week we found farmers hauling in large loads of tomatoes for the canners; the canner running to its full capacity; the merchants finding business a little better; and the school endeavoring to meet its obligations to the children of the district.

R.W. Smith, one of the merchants, has a large stock for a small town. He buys country produce and finds a very good business considering the season and the time. He carries groceries, a few dry-goods, shoes and other things farmers need. He has what is called a hammer mill, crushing corn and making meal. He has been at Robinson four years.

R.L. Harper has a general store with a good stock. He also keeps the post office. He also keeps the post office. He has been in that community for forty years and is well and favorably known. He takes an active interest in the community and is reasonably hopeful of better times in the future.

Mrs. Bent Harper and Miss Agnes Blew are the teachers of the Robinson school. The term began September 7th. It is expected that it will continue seven months.

Uncle Jimmie Collins is one of the oldest settlers in that part of Benton County. He is a grand old man with a fine memory, still maintaining interest in everything that contributes to his citizenship.

The Robinson Canning Company is owned by B.A. Rudolph

and associates. The same company has a canner at Siloam Springs and at Litteral. About 100 hands are employed in the canner. Farmers have contracted 300 acres in tomatoes and are now busy delivering them. The grade is very good this year, Mr. Rudolph said, most of the acreage being on the flint rock hill land which usually makes the best tomatoes.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Fayetteville Weekly Democrat *reprinted this note on Aug. 4, 1881, about the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad with a very early mention of the name Winslow, recently named in honor of the president of the railroad company, as the article speculates.*

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The Arkansas extension of the Frisco road has proven a most valuable investment, and the other lines projected in that state, give every prospect of success, not only to the company, but in developing the resources of the state, furnishing facilities of transportation for her products, and opening up closer commercial relations between the people of Arkansas and the merchants of St. Louis. Arkansas and Texas railway — a branch of the 'Frisco — it is understood that the line will be opened and ready for business to Winslow, in Washington county, Ark., by October 1. This place is probably named in honor of Gen. Winslow, the president of the St. Louis and San Francisco railroad company, is 25 miles beyond Fayetteville, at the foot of the Boston mountains. According to the best calculations of the engineers and contractors, the line to Ft. Smith will be finished about June 1, 1882. Work is progressing very well on the tunnel which is being bored through the Boston mountains. There are 250 men at work there alone, and along the line, between Fayetteville and the Boston mountains, there are 8,000 men at work. — [St. Louis Republican.

Springdale Community Rededicates Historic Shiloh Meeting Hall

The city of Springdale and the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History rededicated the Shiloh Meeting House on June 30. The two-story building was erected in 1871 through a collaboration between three churches and the Springdale Masonic Lodge No. 316. It served as a community meeting house for more than 135 years before Shiloh Museum began renovation of the building and a fundraising campaign to pay for it.

A collaboration between the Shiloh Regular Baptist Church, also known as the Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church, the Liberty Missionary Baptist Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Masons paid for the building, known initially as Shiloh Church. The ground floor was used by the churches while members of the Masonic Lodge used the upstairs for their meetings.

The Rev. John Holcomb donated land for the church, which cost $973.43 to construct. The Van Winkle Mill just north of the War Eagle community supplied timber for constuction of the hall. It was the same mill that supplied timbers two years later for construction of the first permanent building on the campus of the Arkansas Industrial University in Fayetteville. The institution is now known as the University of Arkansas and the building is Old Main.

A church bell — which reportedly came from a Mississippi River steamboat — was installed in the belfry. Richard Lichlyter, the town blacksmith, made a clapper for the bell from a cannonball that his brother had found on the battlefield of Pea Ridge in northern Benton County.

Churches and the Masonic Lodge used the building in this manner for the next 50 years. In 1925, the Women's Civic Club of Springdale leased the second floor as its meeting room. The club stayed two years before moving to the newly constructed Springdale

Shiloh Museum of Ozark History/ I.O.O.F. New Era Lodge Collection (S-2012-13-1)

Marion William Fields (front, fourth from left), Ira Fitzgerald (back, third from left) and others participate in initiation of new Odd Fellow membership, Springdale, Arkansas, 1940.

Library. Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church disbanded in 1928, and the Springdale Water and Sewer Department took possession of the building three years later due to delinquent taxes. In 1935, the New Era Lodge No. 36 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows bought the building and property for back taxes.

The community began referring to the building as the Odd Fellows Hall, a name that stuck for 70 years. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

The IOOF supported its mission and upkeep of the building by hosting bingo games for several decades. In 1985, however, the game of bingo, along with other games of chance, were found to be illegal, and the lodge had to give up the income source.

The lodge and Shiloh Museum began working together on preservation of the building, adding a new roof and repainting the exterior of the building. In 2005, the IOOF transferred the building to the Shiloh Museum with the understanding that the museum would

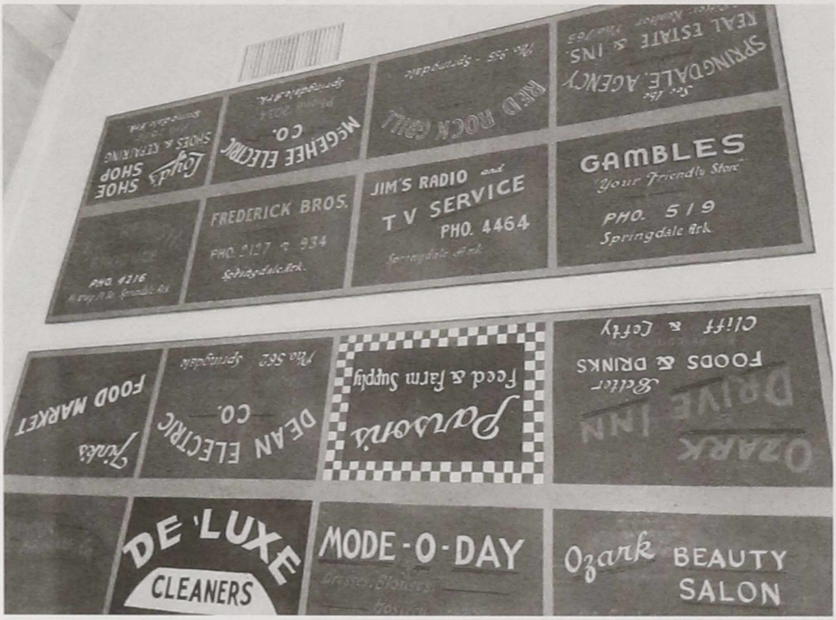

Photo by Dave Edmark

Table tops from the 1950s when the International Order of Odd Fellows conducted bingo games as a fundraising operation were saved during the renovation of the Shiloh Meeting Hall and hung on the east wall of the main room.

renovate the interior of the building and allow the Odd Fellows Lodge to resume its meetings there.

Shiloh Museum welcomed people from across the region to celebrate the reopening of the Shiloh Meeting House, as the building is known now.

Springdale Mayor Doug Sprouse welcomed the crowd and was not the first person to ask about the boards attached to one wall of the main meeting room downstairs, but the only one brave enough to ask it while speaking into a microphone, which made the audience laugh. The four boards are about 3 feet by 8 feet and included hand-painted squares with advertising from Springdale businesses, half of them rightside up and the other half upside down.

Allyn Lord, director of the museum, explained that the Odd Fel-

lows built tables for their bingo nights and sold the squares to sponsors. Very few of the businesses are still going enterprises, but a few such as Neal's Cafe are still operating.

Entertainment was provided by the Shiloh Sacred Harp Singers, who sing traditional hymns written with "shape notes" rather than the common staff notes placed on bass and treble clefs. Shape notes tell a singer the correct note by the shape of note.

Although the downstairs was reopened for use, Shiloh Museum is still working on renovation of the upstairs and it remains closed. The museum plans to create exhibits for the upstairs that tell the stories of the organizations and people who have called the meeting house their home during the last 147 years.

Photo by Charlie Alison

David Beauchamp, president of the Shiloh Museum Board of Trustees, watches ceremonies with a standing-room-only crowd of community residents who came for the grand re-opening of the restored Shiloh Meeting House.

Photo by Dave Edmark

The Shiloh Meeting House, built in 1871, has been restored by the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History. It reopened at the end of June and will continue to be used as a meeting house.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Fayetteville Weekly Democrat *ran this missive from a resident of Shiloh, present-day Springdale, not long before the Shiloh Church was erected overlooking Spring Creek. The article ran in the Feb. 25, 1871, issue and gives some small hint at the growing community. The word "purp" in latter part of the story is 19th century slang for "pup."*

From Shiloh

Editors Democrat:

Perhaps you have never heard from a little town called Shiloh, that has sprung up within the last two years, ten muddy miles nearly due north of Fayetteville, and two miles from the Benton county line, on the great thoroughfare from North to South, situated in the midst of a beautiful level, rich and timbered country, interspersed with small prairies well adapted to the production of grass of every kind; having the advantage of a healthy location, and surrounded with such water-power for mills and other machinery, ere long, even Fayetteville will find out there is such a place as Shiloh. Our town is surrounded by an honest, industrious and enterprising people, who have as good wheat land, and as fine summer range as can be found in the State. The worst hindrance is the land is owned in too large quantities; we want me to come in and buy the land in lots of 40 and 80 acres and improve it; in that event our little town would be immediately besieged with everlasting prosperity which would enable us to receive two of the three railroads that the Echo is going to have built.

But about Shiloh. We have one very nice store here, run by Lovelady & Putman, who are clever fellows and are doing a fair business; and then there is Jack Steele, who will soon have up the fanciest little stock of goods in the west; so Jack thinks. — And there's Dr. Grace and Lawyer Grace, citizens of our town, men of good appearance, and come to us highly recommended, men of business and fine talent. We arble to support a School all the time, and will soon place it upon Academic principles. We also have a free school occasionally, at "high figures." Jim keeps our horses shod, but we

want another blacksmith, though we are not much on the black. We have a cabinet workman, but we want a wagon maker; we want somebody to come and build us a steam mill, a carding machine and tan yard; we want monied men to come and take Shiloh by the tail and giver her a lift. We have no man among us low enough down to attempt to sell "red eye" in our town, and don't want any, nor wont have any, but to the contrary our citizens are all high-toned gentle men, holding themselves above things "strangled." Besides, we all agree on politics; i.e., we agree that Taxes are most awful high, and that there is lots of purps in Arkansaw; some old purps, some young purps, some big purps, but strange to say they are all black purps. So Shiloh is in favor of a special dorg tax.

We speak the truth when we say that we have as good society in our town and vicinity as can be found in Arkansas or any other State; no joke or exageration. Churches: there is the Hardshell Baptist, the Missionary Baptist, the Presbyterian, the South Methodist, and a few scattering members of the Christian order; preachers without number.

And now if you never hear from me again, I am yours in the hope of a speedy reduction in Taxes, and the turning out of office of tea superintendents.

SHILOH BLADE.

Shiloh, Ark., Feb. 21, 1871.

Flashback
Washington County Historical Society
118 East Dickson Street
Fayetteville, AR 72701

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